

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 121229Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1892
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08945

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, EG
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
BRITISH

1. FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WEIR BRIEFED US JUNE 11
ON FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FONSEC
CALLAGHAN AND OTHER BRITISH OFFICIALS JUNE 10 AND 11.
(PM WILSON'S DISCUSSION WITH FAHMY HAD NOT YET TAKEN
PLACE.).

2. ON GUARANTEES AND GENEVA, WEIR ACCUSED FAHMY OF PLAY-
ACTING. CALLAGHAN LAID DOWN USUAL BRITISH POSITION RE-
GARDING GENEVA, I.E., UK PREPARED TO MAKE WHATEVER CONTRI-
BUTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES. HE ALSO GAVE
STANDARD BRITISH POSITION ON ANY POST-SETTLEMENT GUARAN-
TEES SAYING BRITAIN WAS PREPARED TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE
ROLE AS PERMANENT MEMBER OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT IT
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DID NOT SEEK RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT POWER. FAHMY TOOK

EXCEPTION TO THIS POSITION, ASKING IF THIS MEANT BRITISH WOULD WAIT FOR ISRAELI PERMISSION BEFORE THEY DID ANYTHING. HE SUGGESTED THIS WAS SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN BRITISH POLICY. CALLAGHAN REPLIED THIS REPRESENTED NO CHANGE AT ALL AND WAS STANDARD POSITION TAKEN LONG BEFORE FAHMY'S CURRENT VISIT. THIS ISSUE SUBSIDED AFTER SUBSEQUENT MEETING.

3. WEIR ASSURED US THAT FAHMY HAD NOT BEEN ANY MORE DEFINITE THAN BEFORE ON UK PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA AND NEITHER HAD BRITAIN. FAHMY DID SUGGEST THAT IF GENEVA DID NOT GET RESULTS, AS HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT, EUROPE MIGHT BE A USEFUL CATALYST.

4. ON SETTLEMENT, FAHMY THOUGHT RABIN WOULD FIND PRESIDENT FORD ONLY WILLING TO DISCUSS A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT. HE THOUGHT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD FIRST DISCUSS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WITH RABIN, AND IF RABIN DID NOT AGREE AND CARRIED HIS ARGUMENT TO THE PRESIDENT, FORD WOULD INSIST ON OVERALL SETTLEMENT. FAHMY INDICATED EGYPTIANS THOUGHT USG ATTITUDES ON THIS SCORE WERE QUITE CLOSE TO EGYPTIAN.

5. DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIANS DID NOT PRODUCE ANY SURPRISES. WHEN BRITISH ASKED IF EGYPTIANS COULD GET PALESTINIANS TO ACCEPT EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, FAHMY COUNTERED THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONCE ISRAEL ACCEPTS PALESTINIANS RIGHTS TO A NATIONAL HOME. DISCUSSION OF SYRIA WAS GENERAL WITH FAHMY SAYING THAT SYRIA USUALLY FOLLOWS EGYPT FIVE OR SIX MONTHS LATER. HE INDICATED PRESIDENT ASAD WAS BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO SETTLEMENT PROCESS BUT HAD TO TREAD WARILY AMONG HIS HOMEGROWN

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